

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 08249 021113Z

50

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 MMS-04 ACDA-19 OMB-01 CIEP-02 SAJ-01 TRSE-00

DRC-01 /142 W

----- 106766

R 021101Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1729

INFO SECDEF

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 08249

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MILI, XO, UK, US

SUBJECT: PORT CALLS AT DIEGO GARCIA

REF: STATE 101915

1. ON RECEIPT OF REFTEL WE SENT INFORMAL LETTER TO JOHN THOMSON, ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY SUPERVISING DEFENSE DEPARTMENT IN FCO, CONTAINING SUBSTANCE OF DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF OPERATIVE PART OF THOMSON'S REPLY:

"ALTHOUGH, AS YOU SAY, THERE IS NO CLEAR POLICY FOR PORT CALLS AT DIEGO GARCIA BY SHIPS OF THIRD COUNTRIES, SUCH VISITS ARE, OF COURSE, POSSIBLE UNDER THE 1966 AND 1972 AGREEMENTS, PROVIDED THE AGREEMENT OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS IS OBTAINED. YOU WILL NO DOUBT RECALL THAT ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE EARLIER THIS YEAR FOR A FRENCH SHIP TO PAY A ROUTINE VISIT TO DIEGO GARCIA, ALTHOUGH IT IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CANCELLED BY THE FRENCH. FURTHER VISITS OF THIS KIND AT A LATER STAGE MIGHT BE USEFUL.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 08249 021113Z

" HOWEVER, WE WOULD NOT THINK THIS THE RIGHT TIME TO ENCOURAGE THEM. PUBLIC INTEREST IN DIEGO GARCIA IS QUIET AT THE MOMENT, AND UNTIL MINISTERS HAVE REACHED A DECISION REGARDING YOUR GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THE FACILITY IT WOULD, WE THINK, BE UNWISE TO DO ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT STIMULATE IT. PERHAPS WE COULD LOOK AT THE IDEA AT A LATER STAGE, PERHAPS AT THE NEXT ROUND OF THE ANGLO/US CONSULTATIONS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN? IF ANY REQUESTS FOR SHIP VISITS COME IN MEANWHILE, I SUGGEST THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO CONSIDER THEM INDIVIDUALLY ON THEIR MERITS."

2. EMBASSY COMMENT. THIS IS A FURTHER DEMONSTRATION OF THE UK POLICY TO MINIMIZE ALL PUBLIC REFERENCES TO DIEGO GARCIA UNTIL AGREEMENT ON EXPANSION OF FACILITY IS CONCLUDED. THUS WE PREDICT THAT THEY WILL OPPOSE JOURNALISTS' VISIT, SHIP VISITS OR ANY OTHER ACTIVITY WHICH DRAWS ATTENTION TO THE ISLAND UNTIL IT BECOMES MORE CLEAR THAT THE USG IS PREPARED TO GO AHEAD WITH EXPANSION AND UNTIL UK MINISTERS HAVE MADE FINAL DECISION ON THIS MATTER. IN LIGHT OF THIS SITUATION, ACTIVITIES THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN WELCOMED BEFORE NEGOTIATION OF AD REFERENDUM AGREEMENT, SUCH AS JOURNALISTS' VISIT, ARE NOW NOT DESIRED HERE. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THERE IS OPPOSITION TO THE EXPANSION PROGRAM IN THE GOVERNMENT: ALL INDICATIONS ARE OTHERWISE. OUR SOURCES IN FCO STRESS THAT THE ONLY REASON FOR MINIMIZING PUBLIC AND THIRD COUNTRY ASPECTS OF DIEGO GARCIA IS THE TACTICAL QUESTION OF HOW BEST TO MOVE FORWARD ON THE EXPANSION AGREEMENT ONCE THE UNITED STATES DECIDES IT CAN PROCEED. END COMMENT.

ANNENBERG

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY POLICIES, MILITARY VISITS, MILITARY BASES, PORT FACILITIES, DIEGO GARCIA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON08249
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740175-0331
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740781/aaaacron.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 101915
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Jul-2001 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORT CALLS AT DIEGO GARCIA
TAGS: MILI, XO, UK, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005